

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse And Dependency Services Division

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King County Community Organizing Program Advisory Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2011 Starbucks at 23rd and Jackson

<u>Board Members present</u>: Mark Howard, City of Seattle Emergency Management Services, Co-Chair; Liz Wilhelm, Youth Suicide Prevention Program, Co-Chair; Kimberly Walker, Kinship Center; Constance Perenyi, Friends of Third Place Commons

<u>Staff Members present</u>: Laura Quinn, Community Organizer; Sharon Toquinto, Prevention and Treatment Manager.

Guests present: Cheryl Hanson, Executive Director, Black Diamond Community Center

I. OPENING AND UPDATES

Board and staff introduced themselves and gave updates on their work. The Board minutes from October were approved.

II. FEATURED PRESENTER: CHERYL HANSON

Cheryl Hanson, Executive Director of the Black Diamond Community Center reported on her work there. The community center serves around 5,500 people annually. The space is used to host youth programs, such as Boy Scouts. There is a food bank, funded exclusively by donations. The center is also a designated site for the Salvation Army, and can provide emergency gas and hotel vouchers. One of the primary functions of the community center is as a senior center. There is a food program for seniors, which is contracted through Catholic Community Services, and a field trip per month is organized for the seniors. The funding for the community center comes from United Way, the King County Aging Program, and half their funding is through donations. Cheryl reported that the center held a Back to School program for kids who are on free and reduced lunch and that a mini-grant from the Community Organizing Program helped to buy school supplies for these kids.

III. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Governor's Proposed Elimination of Community Mobilization

Community Mobilization has been completely eliminated under the Governor's proposed budget. The Legislature will take up the issue in the Special Session or when they return in January. At this point, there is a 75% cap of funding for the program, which should carry the program through March.

2. Special Session Updates

Liz reported that if the bill to take back unused prescription medication did not pass this time, it would not be reintroduced.

3. Community Organizer Report

Laura gave her written and oral report on the coalitions she has been working with around the county.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 17th SOAR 801 – 23rd Ave S. Seattle, WA 12:30-2:30